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Representative Ted Graziani

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Please Keep in Touch



### Money To The 57th District



	FY 2006-2007 Governor's Budget	FY 2006-2007 Approved Legislative Budget	Difference
East Windsor	\$5,145,472	\$5,129,369	\$73,864
Ellington	\$8,700,459	\$8,785,873	\$85,414
Property Tax Relief			
East Windsor	\$0	\$61,666	\$61,666
Ellington	\$0	\$74,171	\$74,171
Additional Education Funding			
East Windsor	\$0	\$103,974	*\$103,974
Ellington	\$0	\$92,393	*\$92,393
TOTAL District Increase		\$491,482	

\*based upon a 20% increase (from 2005)



## State Representative TED GRAZIANI

57th District • East Windsor • Ellington

2006 Legislative Bulletin



Dear Friends,

The General Assembly just completed its shortest session ever, which resulted in some major accomplishments. I am pleased to say that we passed a balanced budget (under the spending cap), and we increased aid to East Windsor and Ellington in areas such as Property Tax Relief, Special Education Funding, ECS, and Town Road Aid over and beyond the original budget presented to us.

We added monies back into the Rainy Day Fund, the Teachers' Retirement Fund (which has been severely under-funded), and addressed the UCONN construction problems by establishing strict contract reforms. These new reforms will ensure the safety of our students, require formal bidding of projects, and will ensure that our tax dollars are being optimized.

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative. I am grateful for your participation through letters, phone calls, and e-mails. They do indeed make a difference.

Respectfully,

Ted C. Graziani

### ENVIRONMENT

#### POLLUTION NOTIFICATION



People who are working or living in or around a contaminated property have a right to know. PA 06-81 requires a seller of a property to disclose any knowledge of well water contamination before selling. It also requires the Department of Environmental Protection, when it is notified that a property is contaminated, to share this information with the Department of Labor and with any employee's representative who has requested notification.

#### UNDERAGE DRINKING

Responsible parents work hard to raise responsible young people who abstain from alcohol. Passage of this legislation makes their jobs easier. Adults will be prohibited from supplying drinks with alcohol to minors or permitting minors to possess alcohol.

### CONSUMERS

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

The General Assembly this session passed the first update to our state's telecommunications laws in more than 12 years. PA 06-144 allows for greater competition among telecommunications companies by allowing them to more freely respond to competition in the marketplace. Specifically, the bill reduces the time-frame under which some companies have to wait to make changes to their prices and services from 21 days to 5 days. While giving companies the ability to more readily respond to offers made by their competitors, the legislation keeps intact DPUC oversight of pricing and service while retaining the state's tough standards for providing quality customer service which apply to telecommunications companies.





## Seniors

**MEDICARE PART D**

In continued response to the deficiencies of the federal Medicare Part D Program, the General Assembly has set up a process through the state's new Medicare Part D supplemental needs fund to provide additional services to the state's seniors. The state will now pay claims for prescription drugs for Medicare-Medicaid dually eligible or ConnPACE clients who are denied coverage because the drug is not on the plan's formulary if it is medically necessary.

**SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET**

This act eliminates the deduction of Social Security retirement benefits from workers' compensation wage replacement benefits, allowing a worker injured after July 1, 1993 to receive BOTH benefits with NO offset. This vital legislation for our senior citizens injured on the job would make them eligible for workers' compensation benefits due them.

## Veterans

**LOWERING OF THE FLAG**

Currently, federal law provides that a governor may proclaim the national flag be flown at half-staff to honor the death of any official of that state or of the federal government. However, there is no specific mention in federal statute of lowering the national flag to honor fallen veterans. This legislation clearly articulates Connecticut state policy whenever the governor orders the national flag to be lowered in honor of a fallen veteran. It provides a simple, yet honorable, way for the State of Connecticut to pay respects to fallen members of the military by giving the governor the ability to lower both the state and national flags in their memory.

**WARTIME MEDAL**

Last year the legislature approved legislation which created a wartime service medal for all veterans who were a resident of the state when called to active duty or is a resident at the time of receipt of the medal.

Eligible veterans may request awarding of the Wartime Service Medal by submitting an application form to the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, accompanied by a DD Form 214 or other documentation, to prove eligibility. Application forms and additional information are available from the department's website at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva) or by calling 1-866-928-8387, Extension 5915. Applications may also be obtained at the department's district and satellite offices.

**DISABLED VETERANS'****PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

This bill excludes veterans' disability payments when determining income for purposes of income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, the blind, and people with total disabilities. State-mandated exemptions are granted through two statutes; one requires towns to give all qualified applicants a basic \$1,000 property tax exemption, and the other requires towns to give veterans who get the basic exemption an additional exemption, the amount of which depends on their income. This legislation excludes the disability payments as a source of income when determining these exemptions. It also requires towns to give a \$1,000 property tax exemption to people who are totally disabled and people who are blind.



## Health Care

**PROTECTING MUNICIPAL RETIREE****HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

New legislation protects municipal employees' retirement benefits from being eliminated or diminished by a municipality.

**SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

PA 06-110 revises the requirements for supervision of physician assistants in hospital settings. This bill strengthens the supervision of physician assistants by ensuring that the supervisions are active and direct, thereby increasing the quality of care that the physician assistant provides.

**HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS**

In response to the concerns of the residents of the state, the General Assembly formed a Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections. This committee will advise the Department of Public Health on developing a mandatory reporting system for hospital associated infections. This will go far in increasing patient safety during hospital stays by holding hospitals accountable for the spread of disease.

**IMAGING SERVICES**

This bill limits a patient's co-pays for MRIs and CAT scans to \$375 a year for such tests each year and \$75 for each one. A patient's limit is \$400 for all PET (positron emission topography) in a year and \$100 for each one.



## Education

**TUITION WAIVERS FOR****CERTAIN DEPENDENTS**

This act waives the payment of tuition fees at higher education institutions, including the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University system, and the regional community-technical colleges in the state. The waived payment only applies to dependents of military personnel, police officers or firefighters (municipal employee or state employee) killed in the line of duty with certain service requirements. This legislation extends coverage to any surviving spouse or dependent of a person victimized by terrorism as well.

A person must enroll in a full or part-time degree program to receive a tuition waiver as well as become eligible for reimbursement from an employer if necessary. The bill defines a person's residence as the true, fixed and permanent home and place of habitation even if the individual has only lived at that location for less than a year.

**SODA BILL**

To provide for the nutritional health of Connecticut's children, the Healthy Schools Initiative was passed to reinforce healthy eating habits at schools. This law bans the sale of soda and sugary beverages and provides incentives for schools to give healthy snacks to young people. The Department of Education is also required to provide healthy standards of student eating habits while providing a financial incentive to public schools.



at your service

Questions ~ Concerns? Call State Representative Ted Graziani at 240-0457 or email [Ted.Graziani@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Ted.Graziani@cga.ct.gov)